

January 2016 Tiffin Travelers Member Newsletter
Words from Your Prez

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Greetings

A new year is once again upon us. Tom and I are finishing our annual three-weeks-of-holiday-cheer at Disney. We extend warm and sincere wishes that all of you enjoyed your holidays and will also enjoy a healthy and happy 2016.

By now you have probably received your January publication of the FMCA magazine. I worked with the very nice FMCA magazine editors to have an article published in the "Chapter Spotlight". Our member celebrities in the photo chosen were seen boarding the Asheville, NC sightseeing trolley. Several requests for new member applications have already been received as a result of the article.

Tom and I missed the North Carolina GEAR event and then our club's post-GEAR rally at Lake Rutledge. Thank you to VP Boots Malin for stepping in at GEAR. Also thanks are extended to Secretary Phyllis Hunter for hosting the post-GEAR rally.

We stayed closer to home and family, and are very happy to report our son's dire health situation is indeed improving. While at home after our summer travel, we had other "pleasures" dealing with the upkeep of sticks-and-bricks...small things like re-piping the plumbing, replacing failed appliances, etc. Argh! We'll make up for missing you at last year's end as we kick-off a busy first half of this year.

This Newsletter touches on events already scheduled. Tom and I will be at most of them. Our club's calendar always has room for more rallies. I welcome you to contact me if you have an interest in hosting a rally at a park near your home or elsewhere. Hosting is easy and you have as much assistance and guidance as you might need at the ready if you ask. The destination you choose doesn't have to be in your neighborhood. I live in Florida and have hosted rallies in Florida, Alabama and Tennessee and will be hosting this April's Georgia rally. (Two days after hosting the Georgia rally, Tom and I leave the country for a month. But we'll see you again at the June rally in Virginia.) Where there is a will for fun, there is a way.

Annual Dues Renewal

Annual dues of \$12 were payable January 1. Notices were emailed to all members in early December. A notice is also posted to the home page of the club's web site. A reminder notice will be emailed mid-January only to those who have not paid for 2016. Make checks payable to "Tiffin Travelers", and forward them to club Treasurer, Tom Fonner at 730 Segovia Road, St. Augustine, FL 32086.

We hope all our members will opt to renew. But, if you have decided not to renew for 2016, please send a withdrawal request email message to tiffintravelers@gmail.com so that we may remove you from the records and eliminate the need for additional emails to you.

Member Records

After the March expiration of the dues renewal period, a full membership roster will be emailed to all members. When you receive the document, please check the record carefully for accuracy of your name, address, email and phone contact information. Forward any corrections to tiffintravelers@gmail.com. Remember to send corrections if any of your contact information changes.

Proposed Revision of Chapter Bylaws

As a result of several things (FMCA bylaws changes; discrepancies between our club's practices versus our club's stated bylaws; and, a need for clarification and updating of some of our club's practices and bylaws), a proposal for revisions to our bylaws was emailed to all members attached to the notice of this newsletter's publication. You can also access the proposed revision by clicking on the "Chapter Bylaws" link on the club's web site, then clicking on the subpage link at the bottom of the (current) Bylaws document. This revised bylaws document will be presented for approval vote at the **club's annual business meeting to be held in Perry, GA in March**. (Specific date, time and meeting room at FMCA Family Reunion event TBD.) Any questions or concerns related to this proposed revision must be received prior to February 7, 2016 at tiffintravelers@gmail.com.

For comparison purposes, you can review the posted original bylaws of our chapter, dated June 2009. And, FMCA provides a recommended format for chapter bylaws. The previous version of the FMCA shell format was used for our original bylaws. FMCA's recommended format was last updated July 2015 and is available at <http://www.fmca.com/members/member-forms.html>. You must sign in to access it.

Most of the proposed revisions are not of procedural substance, but are instead: changes to exactly mirror FMCA recommended verbiage and terminology; or, correction or change of punctuation; or, rearranging sentence structure to emphasize subject importance; or, addition of words or terminology to add clarity. The few chapter-related procedure, rule or policy revisions can be found in two sections of the revision document: Article III, Section 7, Dues and Fees, sub paragraphs C, D and E; and, Article VI, Section 3, Chapter Meetings, sub paragraph B. The Article III and Article VI recommended revisions will enhance the overall administration of club records and operation.

October 2015 Lake Rutledge Post-Rally Comments

Tiffin Travelers Post GEAR Rally was four nights beginning October 18, 2015, at Rutledge Lake RV Park in Fletcher, NC. The event was hosted by Phyllis and Dave Hunter and attended by 15 member coaches. Seven new members were added during the GEAR and post-GEAR rallies. A fun time was had by all while enjoying the area, planned activities and free time. Actual rally expenses were less than expected, so attending coaches were mailed refunds of 48.5% of the collected rally fee. Nice!

Planned activities included donuts each morning; a chicken dinner; a pizza dinner; several socials; a wire wrap bracelet making class conducted by member Marge Mazzone; and, an afternoon theater outing at Flat Rock Playhouse. As rally hosts, Phyllis and Dave selected the Flat Rock Playhouse Poppy Project to benefit the Veterans Restoration Quarters - Asheville as their recipient of the club's \$100 donation to a local charity.

January Florida RV Super Show

This event begins January 13, 2016 at the State Fairgrounds east of Tampa, FL. <http://events.frvta.org/florida-rv-supershow/> Many of our members will be milling about, so keep your eyes open to greet friends. As we did not have a member step forward to coordinate a Gathering, there will be no Tiffin Travelers events. ...Maybe next year.

February Sarasota Allegro Club Rally

This Tiffin-sponsored rally is March 2nd at the Sarasota Florida County Fairgrounds. This popular "Buddy Rally" sold all available sites several months ago. Tom and I will be there, as will many of our members. If you are attending, send your email and cell phone contact info to us at tomfonner@aol.com. We'd love to have a social hour for our members.

March Perry, GA FMCA 93rd Family Reunion

The Georgia National Fairgrounds and Agricenter in Perry, Georgia is the site for this FMCA National Convention to be held March 17 to 20, 2016. You can find information to register online at <http://www.fmca.com/conventions-64/perry-2016.html> or you can register by phone at 800-543-3622. I encourage you to register as a volunteer. Volunteering is greatly appreciated and affords you the opportunity to meet so many people and encounter so many experiences. Tom and I have already made our reservations for this event and have also registered to volunteer during the event.

Due to its history of having many of our members in attendance, we will be on the event's agenda for our required **annual business meeting**. And, because there are usually many non-member Tiffin owners in attendance, we will be on the event's agenda to host an "All Tiffin Owners Social". Specific location, dates and times for these two sessions is yet to be determined as the event committee works through larger details of their scheduling.

If you are attending, please email your cell phone and email contact info to tomfonner@aol.com. Advise us as to your arrival date and parking venue (volunteer, volunteer electric, generator, handicap, etc.). We will keep you advised of any small social opportunities we have, as well as the specifics of the business meeting and of the "All Tiffin Owners Social". Depending upon who is arriving when and parking where, there may be opportunities to coordinate some of us parking together in the different venues.

April Brunswick, GA Tiffin Travelers Rally

Coastal Georgia RV Resort in Brunswick, GA is the site of the April 11, 2016 Tiffin Travelers Rally. Four rally nights.

Deadline to reserve is March 11, 2016, and then sites will be released to the public to accommodate those RV'ers migrating north. Migration is serious business for this park due to its easy access to I-95 and its well-equipped facility, including paved and landscaped sites. If you snooze and miss the reservation deadline, you lose. Thank you to those who have already registered!

Call (912) 264-3869 to reserve your site at \$35.70 per night for 50-amp, full hook-up sites. The resort will take one night's rental deposit to reserve your site. If you cancel by April 8, 2016 you will have all but \$5 of your deposit refunded. There is no refund of deposit if you cancel after April 8, 2016.

When reserving a site, be sure to mention "Tiffin Travelers Rally", and email your arrival and departure date to rally hosts Tom and Frances Fonner, tomfonner@aol.com. The resort's privacy policy prohibits them telling the Fonnors who has registered, and they sure would like to know you are coming. If you have reserved, and can't remember whether you have told the Fonnors, tell them again. They won't mind. Also, let them know if you are interested in participating in a round of golf during the rally.

When preliminary agenda info is developed, it will be posted to the web site. Periodically check our web page. If we update the info, the web page will reflect the last date of update. We are working toward sightseeing, dining and shopping opportunities on nearby historic Jekyll and/or St. Simons Islands. Jekyll Island also presents opportunities for a golf outing. And, if we book 25 member coaches for the rally, the club will buy a catered dinner for attending members.

June Ashland, VA Tiffin Travelers Rally

Americamps RV Resort in Ashland, VA (I-95 Exit 89, north of Richmond) is the site of the Tiffin Travelers Rally on June 22, 2016. Four rally nights. This event will be hosted by Carol and Lou Mandik. When preliminary agenda info is ready, it will be posted to the web site. Periodically check our web page. If we update the info, the web page will reflect the last date of update.

Call 800-682-2802 to reserve your full hook-up site at the nightly rate of \$40. Rate also includes breakfast each morning of waffles, coffee and juice. No deposit is required for site reservations. Don't forget to mention Tiffin Travelers when reserving. And, send an email to the Mandiks at cmandik@verizon.net to let them know of your arrival and departure dates.

Links to Info

The oval office periodically receives emails containing information that may be of interest to our members. Here are links to a few.

<http://governance.fmca.com/governing-board/gb-mailings.html>

To read these FMCA Governing Board mailings, you will need to sign-in to the FMCA web site.

<http://governance.fmca.com/images/stories/pdf/ea-newsletter.pdf>

The most recent Eastern Area newsletter

<http://www.motorhometravelagency.com/>

A web site for those interested in European travel.

Closing Remarks

Remember that the motorhoming experience is as little or as much as you make of it. To hold your interest in the organizations you belong to, you hold the responsibility to help keep things fresh and rejuvenated by being involved. The answers to "Why won't the club...?" and "Why didn't the club...?" are in the mirror, not on the sofa. The clubs "will" and the clubs "can" if we each take a bit of ownership upon ourselves to make it happen.

As always, remember to periodically visit our www.tiffintravelers.info web site for possible updates regarding upcoming "Rallies and Gatherings". If you have questions about events on the calendar, please contact the point person for that particular event as indicated on the web site. If no point person is listed, you can email tiffintravelers@gmail.com for assistance.

Stay safe and well. We'll see you in Sarasota, Perry, Brunswick and Ashland. Don't forget to register and don't forget to email the coordinators regarding your attendance.

Our club calendar is pretty clear after June. Let me know where you will be hosting our next rally.

See you down the road!

Frances Fonner, President
Tiffin Travelers